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The African Wood-Owl Strix woodfordii conceals itself in thick foliage during the day, only revealing its presence with melodious hooting calls after full darkness has fallen. It is the only owl found in forest in South Africa, but may also occur in riparian woodland. The diet is mainly insects, but it also catches small rodents, birds and occasionally frogs. The nest is a hole in a tree, where two eggs are laid. The young are adventurous and often clamber up to the nest entrance at night, well before they are able to fly, to await the return of their parents, as depicted here.

Photo and text: Peter Steyn
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